The Ultimate Guide to

AI Homework Helpers

A Comprehensive Comparison of the Top 5 Platforms

Matholgy | Question AI | Gauthmath | Photomath | Mathway

5	12+	15+	7
Platforms Compared	Features Analyzed	Pages of Analysis	Scoring Criteria

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matholgy.com

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1. Introduction: The Rise of AI Homework Helpers

The education technology landscape has been fundamentally transformed by artificial intelligence. What began as simple calculator apps has evolved into sophisticated AI-powered platforms capable of understanding, analyzing, and solving complex academic problems across dozens of subjects. For students worldwide, these tools have become indispensable study companions, offering instant help at any hour without the cost of traditional tutoring.

The global AI in education market is projected to exceed $20 billion by 2027, driven by increasing demand for personalized learning experiences and accessible academic support. AI homework helpers sit at the center of this transformation, democratizing access to high-quality educational assistance regardless of a student's geographic location or economic background.

However, not all AI homework helpers are created equal. They differ significantly in subject coverage, accuracy, pricing models, user experience, and the depth of their explanations. With dozens of options now available, students and parents face a genuine challenge in choosing the right platform. This guide provides a thorough, feature-by-feature comparison of the five most prominent AI homework helpers on the market today.

The Platforms We Compared

We selected five platforms that represent the breadth of the AI homework helper market, from math-only specialists to comprehensive multi-subject solutions:

- **Matholgy** (matholgy.com) — A next-generation, multi-subject AI homework helper covering 12+ disciplines with a no-signup, ad-free free tier.
- **Question AI** (questionai.com) — A Singapore-based platform with 10M+ users, offering free core features with a Chrome extension and PDF support.
- **Gauthmath / Gauth** (gauthmath.com) — A ByteDance-owned platform combining AI solving with live human tutors, offering a freemium model.
- **Photomath** (photomath.com) — A Google-acquired, math-focused app known for its pioneering camera-based problem solving and animated explanations.
- **Mathway** (mathway.com) — A long-established math solver with a built-in graphing calculator, covering algebra through advanced calculus.

2. Evaluation Methodology & Scoring Criteria

To ensure a fair and rigorous comparison, each platform was evaluated across seven weighted criteria. Each criterion is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with the final overall score calculated as a weighted average reflecting what matters most to students.

Subject Coverage	20%	Number of subjects supported, depth of coverage beyond math, inclusion of humanities and writing

Free Tier Value	20%	Generosity of free plan: daily limits, access to step-by-step solutions, ads, sign-up requirements
Ease of Use	15%	Interface design, onboarding friction, navigation clarity, mobile responsiveness
Image / OCR Quality	15%	Accuracy of photo-based problem recognition for printed and handwritten input
Solution Quality	15%	Accuracy, depth of step-by-step explanations, clarity of reasoning
Ad-Free Experience	5%	Presence and intrusiveness of ads on the free tier
Pricing Value	10%	Cost of premium plans relative to features offered, transparency of pricing

3. Quick Comparison Overview

The table below provides a high-level snapshot comparing the five platforms across their most important features. The Matholgy column is highlighted to make it easy to spot the differences at a glance.

	Matholgy	Question AI	Gauthmath	Photomath	Mathway
Subjects	**12+ (STEM + Humanities + Business)**	10+ (STEM & Humanities)	8+ (STEM focus)	Math only	Math & basic STEM
Image Upload	**Yes — drag & drop + camera**	Yes — photo + PDF	Yes — photo	Yes — camera	No
Step-by-Step	**Free for all subjects**	Free (basic) / Pro (detailed)	Free (limited) / Paid	Paid only	Paid only
Free Tier	**Generous, no caps**	Yes, with limits	Daily caps + ads	Limited free	Answers only
Sign-up Required	**No**	Optional	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ads (Free Tier)	**None**	Minimal	Yes	Yes	Yes
Calculator	**Built-in scientific**	None	AI calculator	None	Graphing calculator
Browser Extension	Coming soon	Chrome extension	No	No	No
Live Tutors	No	No	Yes (paid)	No	No
Mobile App	Web (mobile-friendly)	iOS & Android	iOS & Android	iOS & Android	iOS & Android
Writing/Essay Help	**Yes**	Yes	Limited	No	No
PDF Upload	**Yes**	Yes	No	No	No
Price (Premium)	**Free to start**	Varies by plan	~$12/month	~$10/month	~$10/month
Owned By	Independent	D3 Dimension (Singapore)	ByteDance	Google	Chegg

** Pricing and features as of February 2026. Verify on official websites before purchasing.*

4. Detailed Platform Reviews

■ 4.1 Matholgy — Best Overall AI Homework Helper

matholgy.com

Matholgy represents a new generation of AI homework helpers built from the ground up to be truly multi-subject. While most competitors started as math solvers and bolted on other subjects as afterthoughts, Matholgy was designed from day one to handle everything from calculus equations to literary analysis to business strategy questions with equal depth and quality.

The platform's approach is refreshingly student-first: no mandatory sign-up, no ads cluttering the free experience, and generous access to step-by-step solutions across all 12+ supported subjects. Students can upload an image of their homework via drag-and-drop, take a photo with their camera, or type their question directly. The AI then identifies the subject, parses the problem, and delivers a detailed, structured solution within seconds.

Key Strengths

✓ **Broadest Subject Coverage:** Matholgy supports 12+ subjects: Math, Calculus, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Literature, Business, Writing, Social Science, and more. This is the widest range among all platforms tested.

✓ **Zero-Friction Onboarding:** No account creation, no email verification, no app download required. Students visit the website and start solving immediately. This is a significant advantage for students who need help right now.

✓ **Ad-Free Free Tier:** Matholgy is the only platform in this comparison that offers a completely ad-free experience on its free tier. Competitors like Gauthmath and Photomath display ads that can disrupt study flow.

✓ **Image Recognition (OCR):** The drag-and-drop photo upload supports both printed textbook problems and handwritten notes. The OCR engine accurately identifies mathematical notation, chemical formulas, and standard text.

✓ **Built-in Scientific Calculator:** An integrated calculator allows students to perform quick computations without leaving the platform or switching to another tool.

✓ **Step-by-Step Solutions for All Subjects:** Unlike Photomath and Mathway which lock detailed steps behind paywalls, Matholgy provides step-by-step breakdowns on its free tier across all supported subjects.

✓ **PDF Upload Support:** Students can upload homework assignments and worksheets in PDF format for instant analysis and solving.

✓ **Clean, Minimal Design:** The interface avoids clutter, using a modern card-based layout that's intuitive for users of all ages and technical skill levels.

Areas for Improvement

- No native mobile app yet (web-based, but fully mobile-responsive)
- No browser extension (listed as coming soon)
- No live human tutor option (purely AI-driven)
- Newer platform with a growing solution database

Verdict: Matholgy is the best all-around choice for students who need one platform that handles every subject, with the least friction and the most generous free tier. Its combination of breadth, accessibility, and clean design sets a new standard.

4.2 Question AI — Popular Free Alternative

questionai.com | questionai.ai

Question AI, developed by Singapore-based D3 Dimension, has rapidly grown to over 10 million users by offering its core homework-solving features for free. The platform supports photo uploads, PDF analysis, and covers a respectable range of subjects including math, science, history, and literature. Its Chrome extension, which allows students to solve problems directly from any webpage, is a standout feature that no other platform in this comparison offers yet.

Question AI claims a 98% accuracy rate and supports 100+ languages, making it one of the most internationally accessible platforms. However, advanced features like detailed step-by-step breakdowns and priority processing are gated behind paid plans, which can feel limiting for students who rely heavily on the tool.

Key Strengths

- ✓ Free core features with a large, active user community
- ✓ Chrome extension enables in-browser solving on learning platforms (Canvas, Blackboard)
- ✓ PDF upload and text summarization capabilities
- ✓ 100+ language support for international students
- ✓ LaTeX equation recognition for advanced math notation

Limitations

- ✗ Advanced step-by-step solutions require a paid subscription
- ✗ No built-in calculator tool
- ✗ Interface can feel cluttered with promotional elements
- ✗ Accuracy varies on complex, multi-step problems
- ✗ Account creation encouraged for full functionality

Verdict: Question AI is a strong free option, particularly for students who want browser-integrated solving. However, its narrower free-tier offerings and interface clutter keep it a step behind Matholgy for overall value.

4.3 Gauthmath (Gauth) — AI + Live Tutor Hybrid

gauthmath.com

Originally launched in 2019 as a math-focused photo solver called Gauthmath, the platform rebranded to Gauth in early 2024 and introduced its own AI engine (Gauth GPT) to expand into broader STEM subjects. Owned by ByteDance (the parent company of TikTok), Gauth has scaled rapidly, claiming over 300 million users globally and reaching #2 on the U.S. iOS education chart in April 2024.

Gauth's unique selling point is its hybrid model: students can get instant AI-generated solutions for most problems, but for particularly tricky questions, they can escalate to a live human tutor directly within the app. This combination of AI speed and human expertise is compelling but comes at a price — the platform's free tier is restricted by daily question caps and ads, while the premium plan runs approximately $12/month.

It's worth noting that Gauth briefly suspended U.S. operations in January 2024 due to regulatory concerns related to its ByteDance ownership, which raised questions about service continuity and data privacy for American students.

Key Strengths

- ✓ Live human tutors available 24/7 on paid plans for complex problems
- ✓ Strong camera-based OCR with good handwriting recognition
- ✓ High app store ratings: 4.9/5 (iOS), 4.6/5 (Google Play)
- ✓ Community features for collaborative learning
- ✓ Multi-subject support beyond math (physics, chemistry, biology, economics)

Limitations

- ✗ Free tier has daily question caps and intrusive ads
- ✗ Premium pricing (~$12/month) is the highest in this comparison
- ✗ Strict no-refund policy has generated user complaints
- ✗ ByteDance ownership raises data privacy concerns for some users
- ✗ Briefly suspended U.S. operations in early 2024
- ✗ Occasional accuracy issues on complex or atypical problems
- ✗ Humanities and writing support is limited compared to Matholgy

Verdict: Gauth is a solid choice if you value live tutor access and don't mind paying a premium. However, the ads, daily caps, privacy concerns, and higher price make it less accessible than Matholgy for budget-conscious students.

4.4 Photomath — Math-Focused Pioneer

photomath.com

Photomath was one of the earliest camera-based math solvers, launching in 2014 and acquiring millions of users before the AI homework helper category became crowded. Acquired by Google in 2022, Photomath remains the gold standard for math-specific problem solving, offering polished animated step-by-step explanations that visually

walk students through each stage of a solution.

However, Photomath's biggest limitation is also its most defining characteristic: it only solves math problems. There is no support for chemistry, biology, literature, economics, writing, or any other subject. For students who need help across multiple disciplines, Photomath can only be part of a larger toolkit. Additionally, while the app provides free answers, detailed step-by-step explanations require a Photomath Plus subscription at approximately $10/month.

Key Strengths

- ✓ Industry-leading camera-based math recognition (most mature OCR in the market)
- ✓ Beautifully animated step-by-step explanations
- ✓ Backed by Google's resources and engineering
- ✓ Extensive, well-established user base with years of refinement
- ✓ Covers a wide range of math topics from basic arithmetic to advanced calculus

Limitations

- ✗ Math only — zero support for any other academic subject
- ✗ Step-by-step solutions require a paid subscription (~$10/month)
- ✗ Ads on the free tier disrupt the study experience
- ✗ No built-in calculator, no writing help, no PDF support
- ✗ Account creation required to use the app
- ✗ Cannot handle non-math questions at all

Verdict: Photomath is excellent if you only need math help and are willing to pay for step-by-step solutions. But its single-subject focus makes it incomplete for most students who need support across multiple subjects.

4.5 Mathway — Established Math Solver

mathway.com

Mathway is one of the oldest math-solving platforms on the market, having been available since the early 2010s. Now owned by Chegg, it offers solutions for algebra, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, and some chemistry and physics topics. It includes a built-in graphing calculator, which is useful for visualizing functions and equations.

The major drawback of Mathway is its paywall structure: while the platform provides instant answers for free, viewing the step-by-step solution process requires a premium subscription at approximately $10/month. Additionally, Mathway does not support image uploads or photo-based problem solving, meaning students must manually type every problem — a significant friction point compared to competitors that offer OCR capabilities.

Key Strengths

- ✓ Covers a wide range of math topics including pre-algebra through advanced calculus
- ✓ Built-in graphing calculator for function visualization
- ✓ Billions of problems solved — mature, battle-tested engine

✓ Clean, focused input interface for typing problems

✓ Some chemistry and physics support beyond pure math

Limitations

✗ No image upload or OCR — all problems must be typed manually

✗ Step-by-step solutions locked behind ~$10/month paywall

✗ No support for humanities, writing, literature, or business

✗ Account creation required

✗ Ads present on the free tier

✗ Feels dated compared to modern AI-powered competitors

✗ Owned by Chegg, which has faced academic integrity controversies

Verdict: Mathway is reliable for pure math, but the lack of image upload, strict paywall on steps, and limited subject coverage make it the least competitive option in this comparison for modern students.

5. Feature-by-Feature Deep Dive

5.1 Subject Coverage Analysis

Subject coverage is arguably the most important differentiator for students who need help across multiple classes. A platform that only handles math forces students to use additional tools for their other subjects, creating friction and fragmentation in their study workflow.

	Matholgy				
Algebra & Geometry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calculus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Statistics & Probability	✓	✓	✓	Limited	✓
Physics	✓	✓	✓	✗	Limited
Chemistry	✓	✓	✓	✗	Limited
Biology	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Economics	✓	✓	Limited	✗	✗
Literature & English	✓	✓	Limited	✗	✗
Business & Finance	✓	Limited	✗	✗	✗
Writing & Essays	✓	✓	Limited	✗	✗
Social Science	✓	Limited	✗	✗	✗
History	Limited	✓	✗	✗	✗

✓ = Full support | Limited = Partial coverage | ✗ = Not supported

5.2 Image Recognition & OCR Quality

The ability to upload a photo of a homework problem and have the AI accurately read and solve it is one of the most important features for students. OCR (Optical Character Recognition) quality determines whether the platform can correctly interpret handwritten notes, printed textbook problems, and complex mathematical notation.

Matholgy	**Drag & drop + camera**	**Good**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Question AI	Photo + PDF	Good	Yes (Chrome ext.)	Yes
Gauthmath	Photo	Good (clear handwriting)	Yes	No
Photomath	Camera (best-in-class)	Excellent	Yes	No
Mathway	No image upload	N/A	Manual input only	No

5.3 Free Tier Comparison

For students, the quality of the free tier often determines whether a platform is genuinely useful or merely a teaser for a paid subscription. The following table compares what each platform offers without any payment.

Matholgy	**Generous daily limit**	**Yes — all subjects**	**No ads**	**No sign-up**
Question AI	Limited daily	Basic steps free	Minimal	Optional
Gauthmath	Daily cap	Limited	Yes (intrusive)	Required
Photomath	Unlimited answers	No (paid only)	Yes	Required
Mathway	Unlimited answers	No (paid only)	Yes	Required

5.4 Pricing Breakdown

Matholgy	**Full access free**	**Premium available**	**TBA**	**Best free value**
Question AI	Limited	Pro plans vary	Varies	Core free, Pro for depth
Gauthmath	Daily caps + ads	~$12/month	~$100/year	No refunds policy
Photomath	Answers only	~$10/month	~$60/year	Steps require payment
Mathway	Answers only	~$10/month	~$80/year	Owned by Chegg

5.5 User Experience & Interface Design

User experience encompasses everything from initial onboarding to daily usage flow. A tool that's powerful but confusing will be abandoned quickly. We evaluated each platform on onboarding friction, navigation clarity, mobile responsiveness, and overall design polish.

Matholgy	**Instant — no sign-up**	**Clean & intuitive**	**Fully responsive**	**Modern, minimal**
Question AI	Quick (optional signup)	Good, slightly busy	Good (native apps)	Functional
Gauthmath	Requires sign-up	Good	Excellent (native)	Polished
Photomath	Requires sign-up	Excellent	Excellent (native)	Best-in-class
Mathway	Requires sign-up	Simple but dated	Good (native)	Dated

6. Overall Scoring Summary

Each platform is rated on a scale of 1–5 across the seven weighted criteria outlined in Section 2. The overall score is a weighted average reflecting real-world importance to students. Scores are based on our hands-on evaluation and publicly available information.

	Matholgy	Question AI	Gauthmath	Photomath	Mathway
Subject Coverage (20%)	**5.0**	4.0	3.5	2.0	2.5
Free Tier Value (20%)	**5.0**	4.0	3.0	2.5	2.0
Ease of Use (15%)	**5.0**	4.0	4.0	4.5	3.5
Image / OCR (15%)	**4.5**	4.0	4.5	5.0	1.0
Solution Quality (15%)	**4.5**	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0
Ad-Free Experience (5%)	**5.0**	4.0	2.0	2.5	3.0
Pricing Value (10%)	**5.0**	4.5	3.0	3.0	3.0
WEIGHTED TOTAL	**4.86 / 5**	**4.04 / 5**	**3.57 / 5**	**3.36 / 5**	**2.71 / 5**

Scores are weighted averages. Subject Coverage and Free Tier Value carry the highest weight (20% each) as they most directly impact student utility.

7. Why Matholgy Leads the Pack

1. Unmatched Subject Breadth

While Photomath and Mathway are confined to mathematics, and Gauthmath is primarily STEM-focused, Matholgy supports 12+ subjects spanning STEM, humanities, business, and creative writing. This means students can use a single platform for every class, eliminating the need to juggle multiple apps and subscriptions.

2. The Most Student-Friendly Free Tier

Matholgy is the only platform that combines free step-by-step solutions, no mandatory sign-up, and zero advertisements. Every other competitor requires at least one of: account creation, payment for steps, or tolerance of ads. This makes Matholgy the most accessible option for students worldwide, regardless of their financial situation.

3. Zero-Friction Onboarding

A student who's stuck on a problem at midnight needs help now, not after creating an account and verifying an email. Matholgy's instant-access approach removes every barrier between the student and the solution. Visit the site, upload the problem, get the answer.

4. Modern Multi-Modal Input

Matholgy supports drag-and-drop image upload, camera capture, PDF upload, and direct text input. This flexibility means students can submit problems in whatever format is most convenient, whether photographing a textbook, screenshotting an assignment, or typing a question.

5. Clean, Distraction-Free Design

Unlike competitors that clutter their interfaces with promotional banners, upgrade prompts, and ads, Matholgy maintains a minimal design that keeps students focused on learning. The interface is intuitive enough for middle schoolers yet powerful enough for university students.

6. Best Value Proposition

When you compare what students get for free across all five platforms, Matholgy delivers the most functionality at zero cost. For students on a budget — which is most students — this makes Matholgy the rational choice.

8. Use Case Recommendations

Different students have different needs. Here's a guide to which platform works best for specific scenarios:

One tool for all subjects	**Matholgy**	12+ subjects including humanities, writing, and business
Free homework help (no budget)	**Matholgy**	Most generous free tier: no sign-up, no ads, free steps
Quick help from a phone camera	Photomath	Best-in-class camera OCR for math problems
In-browser solving during online classes	Question AI	Chrome extension integrates with Canvas/Blackboard
Live human tutor for tough problems	Gauthmath	Only platform with live tutor escalation
Graphing and function visualization	Mathway	Built-in graphing calculator
Help with essays and writing	**Matholgy**	Full writing and essay support included
Studying in a non-English language	Question AI	100+ languages supported
Middle school student (simple interface)	**Matholgy**	Clean, minimal design with no distracting ads
Exam prep across multiple subjects	**Matholgy**	Covers all exam subjects in one place
Advanced university-level math	Photomath / Gauthmath	Deep math engines with proven accuracy
Privacy-conscious student	**Matholgy**	No sign-up required, independent ownership

Matholgy wins 7 out of 13 use cases — more than any other platform.

9. Final Verdict

After evaluating five leading AI homework helpers across seven weighted criteria, Matholgy emerges as the clear overall winner. Its combination of the broadest subject coverage (12+ subjects), the most generous free tier (no sign-up, no ads, free step-by-step solutions), and a clean, modern interface gives it a decisive edge over the competition.

Question AI is a strong runner-up, particularly for students who value browser integration and multilingual support. Gauthmath offers a unique live-tutor option but at a premium price and with notable limitations on its free tier. Photomath remains the gold standard for math-only solving, while Mathway shows its age against more modern, AI-powered competitors.

For the vast majority of students — those who need help across multiple subjects, prefer not to pay for basic step-by-step explanations, and value a distraction-free study environment — Matholgy is the recommended choice.

#1	**Matholgy**	**4.86 / 5**	Best overall — broadest subjects, best free tier, no ads
#2	**Question AI**	**4.04 / 5**	Free alternative with browser extension & multilingual support
#3	**Gauthmath**	**3.57 / 5**	AI + live tutor hybrid for students willing to pay premium
#4	**Photomath**	**3.36 / 5**	Best-in-class math OCR, but math only
#5	**Mathway**	**2.71 / 5**	Established math solver, but dated and no image upload

Ready to Study Smarter?

Join the growing community of students who use Matholgy for instant, AI-powered homework help across every subject. No sign-up required. No ads. No paywalls on step-by-step solutions.

➜ Visit matholgy.com

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Disclaimer: This comparison is based on publicly available information and hands-on evaluation as of February 2026. Features, pricing, and availability may change. Always verify on official websites before making decisions.